

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Maui's Volunteer Newsletter



Volunteer Appreciation Casino Night



What a Night!

By Barry LeCerf

Pictured from left to right around the table are Chris, Barry and Steve LeCerf, Al Bayless, Marie Rogers, Robin Walters and Lynne Wilson.

What a Night! A great group of volunteers engaged in an evening of camaraderie, good food and table games on April 2 at the Kihei Center. Blackjack was the game of choice for the 50 volunteers who participated. Members of the staff of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration acted as blackjack dealers as volunteers placed their bets on what they hoped would be a winning hand. Nancy Daschbach and Ka'au Abraham offered words of welcome and appreciation for the thousands of hours that volunteers have contributed to HIHWNMS and NOAA. Throughout the evening prize drawings were held and prizes were awarded to lucky recipients. At the end of the night, following a count of the 'play' money, the winning hand belonged to Barry LeCerf, pictured here his wife, Chris, and son Steve. Each player started the night with \$5000 in play money. The volunteers that were big winners at the end of the night were Barry Le Cerf with \$57,850, Bill Chase with \$44,500 and Sue Canfield with \$42,200. Our volunteer, Pam Weaver was accompanied by her husband, Richard, who won \$47,500. Congratulations to these lucky players. Also, a big thank you to Ka'au Abraham and Steve Downey for securing the tables and equipment for the night.

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Hawaiian Fishponds

By Ka'au Abraham

Hawaiian fishponds were an important method of subsistence living that was well understood by the early people of Hawai'i, the native Hawaiian. Fishponds were very abundant in early Hawai'i. Many fishponds are known to have been on the islands of Hawai'i, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i and Maui. Only in Hawai'i was there such an intensive effort to utilize practically every body of water, from the uplands to the sea, as a source of food, for either agriculture or aquaculture necessities.

The word for fishpond is **loko i'a**. **Loko i'a** were used for sheltering and nurturing of fish for food consumption. **Kapu** or rules were set by the **ali'i**, or chiefs, to manage the resources, especially during fish spawning season, to allow a variety of fish to reproduce.

Construction of a fishpond was a huge task and any project undertaken for the good of the community was built through cooperation of all living in the **ahupua'a**. These ponds were built by many workers passing stones from one hand to another and strategically placing the rocks. The **konohiki**, or administrator, would organize the work and be in charge of the construction of the fishpond. While there are fishpond types found in other parts of the world, the **kuapā** style fishpond is unique to Hawai'i. It was made of a massive stone wall extending on the reef flat. In these walls were built **'auwai kai**, or channels that allowed for the exchange of ocean water with the changing of the tide. Adding a **mākāhā**, or sluice gate allowed fish to swim in as small fry, eat the nutrients in the pond, become robust and be gathered at harvest time. In an article found in the December 9, 1869 Hawaiian newspaper, **Ke Au 'Okō'a**, Samuel Kamakau states, "at a sluice where fish had been treated like pet pigs, they would crowd to the **mākāhā** where the keeper felt them with their hands and took whatever of them they wanted." Everyone who had worked during the building of the fishpond earned the right to share in the catch, and no one took more than they could use.



Kō'ie'ie Fishpond, located next the Kīhei sanctuary site, is a loko kuapā type fishpond.

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Photo and story by Serena Neff

Teardrop Butterflyfish

***Chaetodon unimaculatus* (“one spot”)**
Hawaiian: lauhau roughly translated to “leaf like the Hawaiian hibiscus”

Named for the shape of its false eye-spot, the teardrop butterfly fish meets all the major criteria to fit in with other butterfly fish species: colored black, white and yellow; masked true eye; and a false eye-spot towards the posterior end. With strong jaws, they are able to bite off small pieces of hard coral and enjoy nourishment from the tissue within.

Omnivorous in nature, teardrop butterfly fish also consume filamentous algae, polychaete worms and other small invertebrates. Found alone, in pairs or in small groups for safety at depths of 20-100 feet, this species of butterfly fish does not form long-term partner bonds nor do they defend individual territories. The teardrop butterfly fish is very common on the coral reef and its populations are stable worldwide.

Plankton and Water Quality Testing

by Bea Lilly

On April 16th Ka'au Abraham led a training for volunteers, on Plankton and Water Quality Testing.

The Plankton training included: review of written materials for identification of different kinds of plankton, practical collection of plankton from the ocean; laboratory analysis of samples collected using computers and scopes and final identification of samples taken, encouraging the pupils to try to draw any identified plankton they found.



The Water Quality Testing involved introduction and practical application for testing and filling out scientific data. The data sheet for water quality testing includes, date, time, identification of watershed, weather observations, air and water temperature. There are five prepackaged test kits for each station to test ph, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, phosphate levels, nitrate and temperature.

Ka'au also demonstrated the importance of encouraging the pupil's curiosity by an initial question and answer period in the introduction to each lesson.

Attending volunteers: Marv and Michele Paularena, Tom Vellani, Bea Lilly, Flo Bahr, Barry and Chris Le-

Cerf, Konnie Fox and Jan Culbertson.

It was very informative and is available for any volunteer who would like to work with school groups learning these topics.

Photos: above Tom Vellani ; right: Flo Bahr and Tom Vellani collect samples.



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Grant Thompson creating the tool pictured below.

Whale Disentanglement Team Work

Over the years the Sanctuary's entanglement response team has freed 17 large whales from life-threatening entanglements with more than 7,000 feet of line being removed. While not everyone can wield the knives that cut these large animals free, the effort is still one of people coming together to help the animals and figure out how we can prevent these entanglements from occurring in the first place. The sanctuary's volunteers are part of that community effort in many ways.

For instance, the outreach and education that they do is invaluable towards increasing awareness on the threat of entanglement for not only humpback whales, but also other species of marine animals in Hawaii's waters. Sanctuary volunteers have also helped raise funds that have supported the sanctuary's rescue efforts. Last year several GoPro cameras were acquired that when attached to helmets and poles allow us to better document, and thus understand the impact and identity of the gear entangling the animals. Early this season funds raised through volunteer efforts helped us acquire a cutting grapple - a device that not only may be used to cut the animal free, but also increase safety by potentially freeing a rescuer should he or she get caught in the entangling gear.



Joe Carrier, NOAA, is holding one of the tools, a cutting grapple.

On February 28 of this season, a humpback calf was reported entangled off Maui. The entanglement represented a tight wrap of heavy gauge line, just forward of the pectoral flippers – a life threatening entanglement and a very difficult response since there was no gear trailing to provide access and the line was already embedded in the animal's flesh. Volunteers helped fund and Grant Thompson, one of our network volunteers, helped fabricate a knife that was specifically designed to free the calf, and others like it, should we get another opportunity.



The knife, like our others, is fixed on the end of our poles and hooked with a sharp inside surface. However, this hooked blade is also sharp on the outside in order to cut its way into the tight wrap encircling the animal – a minor price to pay considering the entanglement will likely kill the animal eventually. Volunteers help raise money for some equipment used in these rescues. The knife mentioned costs \$125.

So, whether increasing awareness, helping us cut the animals free, or keeping responders safe, volunteers and their efforts are a big part of the rescue program.

Mahalo to you all!!!

Sanctuary Whale Tales

South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback
Whale National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road,
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

West Maui

*Whaler Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Parkway
Lahaina, HI 96761 (808) 661-4567*

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	3 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	4 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
5 Blue`aina (Lahaina)	6	7 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	8	9 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	10 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	11 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
12	13	14 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	15 Volunteer Meeting 6:00 PM Kihei Hale`Amui	16 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	17 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina Kaanapali Beach Clean-Up	18 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
19 Blue`aina (Ma'alaea)	20	21 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	22	23 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	24 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	25 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
26	27	28 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	29	30 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	31 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	